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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/560,232

03/24/2006

Menachem Rubinstein

31129

9513

7590
Martin Moynihan
Prtsi Inc
PO Box 16446
Arlington, VA 22215

01/16/2008

EXAMINER

KUDLA, JOSEPH S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/560,232	Applicant(s) RUBINSTEIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph S. Kudla	Art Unit 1611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-11, drawn to a method of treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition.

Group II, claim(s) 12-23, drawn to a method of treating obesity related disorders comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition.

Group III, claim(s) 24-34, drawn to a method of reducing food intake comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition.

Group IV, claim(s) 35-46, drawn to method of alleviating a disease or disorder by the reduction of food intake comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: There is no special technical feature in the instant claim set.

The technical feature that applicant states in Group I is a method of treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition. Group III discloses a method of reducing food intake comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition. In the inventions in Groups I and III, the compound could function via different modes of action. For example in Group I, the pharmaceutical composition may act as to inhibit pancreas lipase like the drug orlistat to directly treat obesity. And, for example, in Group III, the pharmaceutical composition may act as an anorectic like fenfluramine to suppress the appetite. Because the methods in Group I and III actively operate via separate modes of action and the therapeutic agent is used to elicit a different effect, Groups I and III do not share a common technical feature, therefore; there is no special technical feature and thus the claims lack unity.

Applicant is required to elect a group to be examined on the merits.

Applicant is advised that to be complete, the reply to this requirement must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not

distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) of the other invention.

Election of Species

Compound

3. If Applicant elects any one of Group I-IV for examination, then a single disclosed specie is required for examination. Claim 1, 12, 24 and 35 are generic due to a plurality of the following disclosed patentably distinct species represented in claims 2-5, 13-16, 25-28 and 36-39. The compounds depicted in the claims possess different and distinct functionalities. A search is required of each individual species resulting in an unduly extensive search burden. Therefore, Applicant is required to elect a specific compound, to which the elected invention will be examined on the merits. In the event that the elected compound cannot be found, the search will be extended. Applicants are required to identify those claims to which the elected compound/invention is drawn.

Applicant is cautioned that the election of a species of compound which has not specifically been disclosed as filed may be determined to be New Matter.

Obesity Related Disorder

4. If Applicant elects either Group II or IV for examination, then a single disclosed specie of an obesity related disorder is required for examination. Claims 17 and 40 contain patentably distinct species. The disorders in the instant specification in claims 17 and 40 vary distinctly symptomatically. For example, the symptoms associated with cardiovascular disease (e.g. myocardial infarction) would vary distinctly from the symptoms associated with osteoarthritis (e.g. joint pain). Therefore, a subject that has one disease/condition like cardiovascular disease would not necessarily have the other disease/condition like osteoarthritis. Thus, an individual search is required of each individual distinct disorder, disease or medical condition as each relates to obesity. Applicant is required to elect a disorder/condition/disease as disclosed in the instant specification to which the elected invention will be examined on the merits as well as identifying those claims to which the elected compound/invention is drawn.

Applicant is cautioned that the election of a species of disease/condition which has not specifically been disclosed as filed may be determined to be New Matter.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Kudla whose telephone number is (571) 270-3288. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571)-270-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JK


PHYLLIS SPIVACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
1/14/08